

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 Region 4
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710
 Contact: Jim Vang, Senior Environmental Scientist
 (Specialist)
 Phone: (559) 580-3203

Lead Agency

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources
 Department
 2700 M Street, Suite 100
 Bakersfield, California 93301
 Contact: Janice K. Mayes
 Phone: (661) 862-8793

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2018061031

Project Title: Camino Solar Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2023-052-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The Project is located in the north-central Antelope Valley on the lower foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains, in southern Kern County, California approximately 12 miles south of the City of Tehachapi and approximately 16 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Rosamond on 383 acres of private and BLM administered land. The Project is 15 miles west of State Route (SR) 14, 12.5 miles south of SR 58, and 8 miles north of SR138. The nearest populated areas are the unincorporated community of Mojave (17 miles to the northeast), the unincorporated community of Rosamond (16 miles southeast), and the City of Tehachapi (12 miles to the north).

Project Description: The Project involves the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 44 MW PV solar facility on approximately 287 acres of private and BLM land. The infrastructure that will be installed includes the solar array, fencing, 34.5 kilovolt (kV) underground electrical collector lines, and access roads. Several areas would be used for temporary construction workspace during the construction period. The Project would connect to the existing Manzana Wind substation, where transformers would increase the voltage from 34.5 kV to 220 kV. The energy would then be transferred to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Whirlwind Substation using the existing Manzana Wind 220 kV generation-tie (gen-tie) line. The Project site would be accessed via the existing access roads on private land associated with adjacent wind projects. The primary access route to the Project would be from the south, following 170th Street West northward from the intersection with Rosamond Boulevard, and then along private access roads entitled for the Manzana, Pacific Wind, or Catalina projects.

The Project will permanently remove 3.97 acres of Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of Bakersfield cactus, which is designated as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 2/5/2024 and made the following determinations regarding the above described project:


1. The project [will / will not] have a significant effect on the environment (This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a responsible agency).
2. [An environmental impact report / A negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures [were / were not] made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings [were / were not] made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).

Notice of Determination

7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):

- Payment is submitted with this notice.
- A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.

Responsible Agency statement: The EIR prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

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Signature

Date: 2/5/2024

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____